

Multiple forces can be applied to an object (for AP Physics C)

First principles

A **force** is a push or a pull exerted on an object by another object.

$$[F] = \text{N}$$

Newton I

(special case of Newton II)

So long as the sum of all external forces acting on an object equals zero, the object's velocity is constant.

$$\sum \vec{F} = \vec{0} \Leftrightarrow \text{constant } \vec{v}$$

Newton II

The velocity of an object changes at a rate proportional to the sum of all external forces and inversely proportional to the object's mass (tendency to not accelerate).

$$[m] = \text{kg}$$

$$\vec{a} := \frac{d\vec{v}}{dt} = \frac{\sum \vec{F}}{m}$$

Newton III

Each force has a partner force of equal magnitude and opposite direction, with the roles of the object doing the pushing and the object being pushed exchanged.

There exists $\vec{F}_{_, 2 \text{ ON } 1}$
 \Rightarrow

there also exists

$$\vec{F}_{_, 1 \text{ ON } 2} = -\vec{F}_{_, 2 \text{ ON } 1}$$

Common forces

Origin	Force	Label	Magnitude formula	Direction relative to object being acted on		
Peripheral proximity to Earth	Gravitational (Newtonian)	F_G	mg	From object toward Earth		
Proximity to massive object			$\frac{Gm_1m_2}{r^2}$	From object to other mass		
Contact with stretched string	Tension	T	No defining formula	From object back into string		
Contact with surface	Normal	N	No defining formula	\perp to contact plane, pushes back into object		
			Static friction	f_s	Less than greatest sustainable (for a given N) $f_s < \mu_s N$	\parallel to contact plane, opposes interfacial slippage
					Greatest sustainable (^{max}) $f_s = \mu_s N$	
Kinetic friction	f_k	Unsustainable (^{max}) $f_s > \mu_s N$	$\mu_k N$			
Contact with fluid medium	Viscous drag (laminar)	D	bv	Opposes motion of object through fluid		
	Ballistic drag		$\frac{1}{2}C\rho Av^2$			
Contact with spring	Spring (Hookean)	F_{SPR}	$k \Delta x $	Opposes spring deformation		
Proximity to other charge	Electric (Coulomb)	F_E	$\frac{k q_1 q_2 }{r^2}$	Opposites attract; like repel		
			$ q E$	$\vec{F}_E \parallel \vec{E}$ for (+) test charge		
Proximity to other moving charge(s)	Magnetic (Lorentz)	F_B	$ q v \sin\theta B$	RHR		
			$I\ell \sin\theta B$			

There is **no such force as "the net" force**. The phrase "the net force" refers to the sum of all *actual* forces acting on a system.

Problem-solving algorithm

- Carefully **read** problem three times.
- Sketch system(s)** of interest enclosed in **dashed bubble(s)** and sketch relevant aspects of the **environment**.
- List any **givens** not already sketched. List requested **unknowns**.
- For each system** of interest, draw a **dot diagram** with **signed Cartesian axes**.
 - Include all actual forces. Ask the following questions and obtain, as needed, *labels* from the table of common forces.
 - Is the **Earth nearby**?
 - Is **anything touching** the system?
 - Other than the Earth, are any **massive objects nearby**?
 - Any **charges nearby**?
 - Any **moving charges nearby**?
 - Do not include extraneous forces. All forces on a dot diagram must act **on** the object represented by the dot.
 - Populate a spreadsheet of force components (e.g. F_x and F_y)
 - If dot diagrams for multiple systems are drawn, recognize each **interaction force pair** (equal magnitudes).
 - Sum up forces** in each column of spreadsheet ($\sum F_x = ma_x$ etc.)
- Solve** resulting system of equations for unknowns (or determine unknowns directly in cells of spreadsheet). Sometimes, substituting *magnitude formulas* might be necessary.
- Remember: Determine **what Newtonian principles can be used to predict**, not what "it feels" should be the case."